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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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NYNEX

March 15, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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RE: Notice of Inquiry, PP Docket No. 96-17,
In the Matter of IMPROVING COMMISSION PROCESSES

Dear Mr. Caton,

In the above-referenced Notice Of Inquiry, the Commission has requested comments directed towards improving its procedures and the delivery of services. NYNEX supports this initiative and appreciates the opportunity to provide its views. The Commission has already done much to eliminate backlog, streamline processes and reduce administrative burdens. This was most recently demonstrated in the effort by the Commission to streamline procedures for rulemaking proceedings for implementing the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as stated in the Public Notice released on March 1, 1996 (FCC 96-81). Some of the steps taken were to shorten comment and reply periods, reduce the number of pages in filings and place certain restrictions on ex parte presentations. NYNEX applauds the Commission's efforts in this regard. Notwithstanding these actions, it is still entirely appropriate for the Commission and the telecommunications industry "to take stock and go beyond previous efforts" (NOI ¶ 7).

In brief, NYNEX would like to offer the following rule and notice changes:

- (1) the creation of an electronic filing system;
- (2) streamlining the Part 68 process for CPE;
- (3) introducing streamlined filing requirements for market and technical trials;
- (4) streamlining the procedures for introducing new services.



Overall, these changes will stimulate innovation, streamline the Commission's processes and reduce the administrative burden on both the Commission itself and the entities it regulates. These recommendations are discussed more fully following.

1. The Creation of an Electronic Filing System

The Commission should provide for secure electronic filing of all documents, pleadings, tariffs and records, which could then be used internally by the FCC, and made available for storage and retrieval purposes to the industry and public, in electronic format. Comments of April 1, 1994, in CC Docket 94-18 showed great interest in the implementation of a secure, reliable Commission-wide electronic filing system. The Commission should move forward quickly to establish an advisory committee as proposed in Docket 94-18, and capture the support demonstrated in that proceeding.

2. Streamlining the Part 68 Process for CPE

As an alternative to updating and expanding Part 68 of the Commission's Rules, NYNEX recommends that the Commission consider using industry standards bodies and independent laboratories to expedite and streamline the Part 68 rulemaking process. As technology evolves and new services are developed, carriers need greater flexibility to offer new and innovative services. To reduce the burden on the Commission's limited resources, existing industry guidelines and procedures could be used to address notification and publication of technical and operational standards. Additionally, NYNEX encourages and supports Commission actions to streamline Part 68 Rules in its NPRM on Telecommunications Inside Wiring and Customer Premises Equipment, Released on January 26, 1996, and in the NPRM on the Amendment of Part 68 Rules, Released on February 29, 1996.

3. Introducing Streamlined Filing Requirements for Market and Technical Trials

The NOI notes that under the provisions of part 5 of the Commission's Rules, the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) administers the Experimental Radio Service, which allows simplified applications and rapid processing of requests for small scale technology experiments involving radio technology that do not establish permanent policy precedents. The NOI goes on to state that OET, in consultation with the Common Carrier Bureau and the Cable Service Bureau is exploring the application of this concept to technical experiments involving non radio technology subject to regulation under Titles II and VI of the Act.

NYNEX fully supports the intent of the Commission's proposal to allow simplified applications and rapid processing of requests for small scale experiments for non radio technology - what would be referred to more frequently as "trials." Federal regulations for marketing and technical trials of new basic service do not exist. States, where trials of

new services are most prevalent, do take varying approaches to how they govern these activities. Some require trial tariffs with expedited approval, but preset expiration dates and specific trial terms and conditions. Others require only a simple letter to the appropriate regulatory body providing notification of pending activity. In either case, an expedient mechanism exists for marketing and technical trials to be undertaken.

Although limited testing between an Interexchange Carrier Customer and an Access Provider does take place, few true "technical trials" occur. A trial participant, a potential future customer, must purchase any existing service at tariffed rates if they are required for participation in the trial. So, although a technical trial may take place, a cost frequently accompanies a customer's experimentation with new technology, thus discouraging participation. The Commission should consider rule changes that allow the service provider to waive charges in the instance of such trials, to encourage participation.

Also in the federal jurisdiction, market trials do not exist at all. A market trial of a service can only be conducted after the service is filed in accordance with Part 61 rules, and becomes effective. If the results of the trial indicate the service fails to meet customers expectations or needs, the service must be modified via further tariff filings, or withdrawn via the 214 process. NYNEX believes the Commission can develop a framework using either letter notification or streamlined tariff requirements that will encourage short duration trials of new services and technologies that will protect all participants while speeding new services to market.

4. Consolidating Commission's Efforts on Streamlining Introduction of New Services

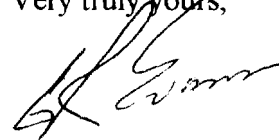
Finally, NYNEX believes consolidation of certain Commission efforts would further streamline processes and reduce burdens. For example, the issue of streamlining the procedures for the introduction of new services has been raised in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 94-1, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket 93-124, FCC 95-393, released September 20, 1995, in the Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers (Price Cap Proceeding). In the Price Cap Proceeding, the Commission proposed to establish two categories of services, one of which would be afforded streamlined requirements. The Commission also proposed to modify its Part 69 Waiver procedures by eliminating the requirement that LECs seek a waiver when introducing a new switched access service. NYNEX filed comments in support of the Commission's proposals, and urges Commission action in these proceedings.

In addition to the above noted changes, NYNEX also believes the ONA reporting requirements can be streamlined with the elimination of certain ONA reports. NYNEX plans to file these recommendations in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket No. 96-23, In the Matter of Revisions of Filing Requirements.

I would be glad to discuss these suggestions further individually, or as part of an industry-wide forum. NYNEX will be preparing more detailed comments to be filed in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. G. ...", written in a cursive style.